

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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October 2021

## “Faith Matters”

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.”  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1, ASV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 1974, my friend David Myers introduced me to the music of Pete Seeger. And one of my favorites of Pete’s songs was “Turn, Turn, Turn,” which is basically the first 8 verses of Ecclesiastes 3 put to music. The melody is lively and bright, but the lyrics are even more vivid as they talk about the changing seasons and the ways in which God makes use of time and the cycles of life to bring about God’s “every purpose under heaven.” I would not have learned that song in my home growing up as folk music wasn’t received very well. (If it wasn’t Bach, it wasn’t good.) So this awakening to Seeger’s use of scripture as an expression of faith and a trust in God’s providence was glorious to me.

While first recorded by The Limelites, it was The Byrds who made “Turn, Turn, Turn” a hit record. But it was Seeger who had envisioned a way to take some of the Bible’s wisdom literature and turn it into a song, thereby creating a spirited and beautiful method for expressing our trust in God’s spirit of intuitive imagining as it brings about the fullest expressions of life and faith.

Hearing the song again recently, I was reminded that just as there are cycles and seasons in human life, there are cycles and seasons in church life, too. As I mentioned in my follow-up letter to our CAT report, we’re at a point in our life cycle where important decisions about the church’s future must be made. Our ancestors in faith planted good seeds of faithful witness to Christ which we, in turn, have watered, weeded, nurtured and pruned. And some of those healthy seeds have grown to full blossom as God’s Spirit has led us to worship with joy, pray with vigor, learn with eager curiosity, share with generosity, and make a difference each day as we serve in ministry in our little corner of the world.

But some of those seeds have also created struggles through the years, including struggles over matters of theology, liturgy, biblical interpretation and the mission of the church. Perhaps, then, it is time to “pluck up” some of what has been planted. Perhaps it’s time to pluck up, for instance, the seed of opposition to change and replant the soil with seeds of imaginative risk-taking and an openness to new ways of knowing and sharing the Word of Christ in and around the community of Goshen. Perhaps it’s time to recognize the seed of nostalgia for what it is—a potentially damaging lament—and strive to make new memories.

Over the next year, the Session will work with a consultant for discernment purposes as we move forward in faithful witness to the Lord. I’m sure you know that the pandemic has changed the way churches in America understand their role as prophets, truth-tellers and witnesses to the gospel. We can’t take for granted anymore that the church will be full on Sunday mornings, that there will be a steady stream of income to keep the lights on, or that there are 40 people willing to serve as leaders

every year. And we can't consider livestreaming to be a temporary "fix." Virtual worship will become a standard option for most churches as they seek to reach out to the community.

We also can't give in to the longing to bring back the glory days of the church in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. (The boom of the 50's and 60's was actually an anomaly by the way—it was a peculiarity in church growth brought about by our nation's victory in World War II and the desire to "nest.")

And, finally, we also can't be satisfied with primarily doing what is comfortable and known. We must be willing to "try on" new ways of doing ministry. We must be open to discussions about the role of the church in society today and how we, as agents of Christ's ministry on earth, are called and empowered to share an ancient but living gospel in a post-modern culture.

My friends, only God knows what the future holds for us. But the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that God has made everything beautiful "in its time," and that same God journeys with us as we enjoy the sweetness of life in these changing seasons.

With an Autumn joy,  
*Pastor Rhonda*

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## **Calling All the Grateful People!**

One of the greatest gifts we can give one another is that of Christian love. And one of the greatest gifts we can offer the Lord is a word of thanksgiving. Which is why the 14<sup>th</sup> Century theologian and mystic, Meister Eckhart, once said, "If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough."

As the holiday of Thanksgiving approaches, I would like to ask the members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen to write up a short narrative—2 or 3 paragraphs—about what you are thankful for this year. I will use these submissions to create a Thanksgiving Devotional to share with the whole congregation. This is a wonderful way to grow in relationship with one another as we share a bit about ourselves and learn something about each other, too. If you have a bible verse you'd like to incorporate, share that with me, too—if not, I'll choose one for you. And if you'd like to include a short prayer—2 or 3 sentences—that would be a gift as well.

You can send me your submissions electronically by emailing me at [revrhon@aol.com](mailto:revrhon@aol.com) or by dropping off or mailing a hard copy to the church office. If you can only write it out longhand, that is fine, too; just try to make sure it's legible (says the woman with terrible handwriting!).

The deadline for submissions is October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you.

*Pastor Rhonda*

## **Columbus Day**

Just a reminder that the church office will be closed on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Columbus Day—or Indigenous Peoples Day, as some would say. The office will open up again the following morning at 9:00am.



## Music Notes...

Choir is resuming its rehearsals. You're welcome to consider resuming your singing, or joining up! Thursdays in the Sanctuary, 7:30 PM. Even with social distancing there is room!

Handbells will resume soon. Your contributions to our worship services in the spring were invaluable, and remain deeply appreciated.

We're still planning on a Halloween event on Sunday, October 31, in the afternoon. Of course, that is subject to cancellation if necessary, but right now it's a "go."

The organ restoration, which you so generously funded, is moving ahead, most likely with a much-desired additional element which your gifts made possible. The organ is going back to its 1931 specifications (with a 1931 console, the cousin of our old one), and the original warm tonal palette. To that, we can now add a Swell Mixture. This will add a bright, sparkling, silvery tone that the original rather design didn't have. In the future, additions can be made easily if we choose; nothing in the current project will be irreversible or immutable.

Above all, the wiring will be correct, the instrument reliable, and the tone rich and warm again (and a bit sparkly!)

If you're curious about organs and their terminology, check out the website of the American Guild of Organists, at [agohq.org](http://agohq.org) (that's AGO HQ dot org). They have a glossary at this link: <https://www.agohq.org/glossary-of-terms/>.

Last night (as I write this) I watched the ending of the Yom Kippur services on TV, broadcast from the Synagogue of the Hamptons. It was an Orthodox service, different from the Reform services I played for so many years. Still, I recognized the melodies—the *nusach*—from the Yizkor and N'ilah services, and then of the Reform Havdalah that followed on the same channel. It was all startlingly familiar, even after a lapse of years. I caught myself singing along. The closing service (N'ilah) I love in particular; the mode contains a few tantalizing major notes that suggest (to me) the rays of the setting sun. Light, even as the dark approaches. Hope, even as the gates begin to close. I continue to feel enriched by my work in the Jewish liturgical world.

Glad to share this journey with you.

Jonathan

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## **Friday Night Friends**

**Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8pm**  
walk in registration at 5:30

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall  
October Theme: Fall

Dinner, Bible story, crafts, STEM project, and FUN, FUN, FUN  
Cost: \$5.00 per child max. family cost \$15.00 (to cover dinner and supplies)

For questions or if you want more information contact:  
Linda Boardman at: [Linda.Sundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.Sundayschool@gmail.com)  
Allison Csernai at: [aac0605@gmail.com](mailto:aac0605@gmail.com)  
Or call: 845 665-9545 / 845 341-8541

## **TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER**



### **HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO:**

|    |                          |    |                                   |
|----|--------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1  | <i>Dom Fontana</i>       | 20 | <i>Diane Church</i>               |
| 4  | <i>Brendan Donohue</i>   |    | <i>Teresa von Pentz</i>           |
|    | <i>Sheila Heal</i>       | 24 | <i>Carl Johnson</i>               |
| 7  | <i>Anna Boese</i>        |    | <i>Nancy Buckley</i>              |
|    | <i>Margaret Dickover</i> |    | <i>Susan Whitson (Paffenroth)</i> |
| 12 | <i>Mitch Weintraub</i>   | 25 | <i>Taylor Panebianco</i>          |
| 14 | <i>Sarah McDowell</i>    | 28 | <i>Rob Person</i>                 |
| 16 | <i>Diane George</i>      | 29 | <i>Loretta Gould (Richner)</i>    |
|    | <i>Karen Bende</i>       | 30 | <i>Wendy Donohue</i>              |

### **HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY TO:**

|    |                                  |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 3  | <i>Wayne and Diane George</i>    |
| 4  | <i>Rob and Nancy Warner</i>      |
| 8  | <i>Alan and Elizabeth Sproul</i> |
| 10 | <i>Adam and Sue Whitson</i>      |
| 13 | <i>John and Maryellen Bruno</i>  |
|    | <i>Kyle and Amber VanGrol</i>    |
| 17 | <i>Dave and Wendy Paffenroth</i> |
| 19 | <i>Bob and Lisa Montalbano</i>   |
| 21 | <i>Cliff and Darlene Bartley</i> |
| 22 | <i>Carl and Elfriede Johnson</i> |
|    | <i>Richard and Robin Paulus</i>  |
| 23 | <i>Dom and Amy Fontana</i>       |

*If you are also celebrating a special day, we wish you much happiness.  
If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary included, please give your  
dates to Pat in the church office.*

### **CELEBRATIONS...**

It was with joy that we celebrated the baptisms of Hudson and Luke Xanthis on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. May God watch over these beautiful young boys and bless them as they begin their journey of faith with the Lord Jesus Christ. And may we covenant to help rear them in the faith so they may come to know an outstanding, eternal love that will blanket them their whole lives long.

It is also with joy that we celebrate the marriage of Mary Dickover and Ryan McCartney in our beautiful sanctuary on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. May God bless their union with much love, joy, peace and unity of both spirit and purpose as they begin their wedded life together.

## **MIDNIGHT RUN**

**THE NEXT EXCURSION INTO NYC FOR MIDNIGHT RUN WILL BE A BREAKFAST RUN ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

We will need drivers and helpers to help on site in the city. We will depart Goshen at 7:15 am and can expect to be back in Goshen by 1:30pm. We will not have to move from one site to another so if you've wanted to see what happens on a Run, this is a good way to get your feet wet. Teens can come with a parent; it's a great way to pick up community service hours.

We will be serving breakfast casseroles, coffee, bottled water, lunch bags (with hard boiled eggs, sandwich, fruit), goodie bags and toiletry bags.

### **We need the following food donations:**

Coffee (large can)  
Heat and serve sausages - 200 links  
Hard boiled eggs - 6 dozen  
Bread - 150 slices  
Peanut butter - 1 xl jar  
Jelly - 1xl jar  
Deli meats  
Ham - 2 lbs  
Turkey - 2 lbs  
American cheese - 3 lbs  
Boxes of raisin - (snack size, 75 individual count)  
Powdered creamer  
Sandwich bags (plastic zip lock) - 150 count

This list is shorter than earlier lists. We have a stockpile of some of the staples so we will use them up before looking for more donations.

Casseroles: We will provide recipes and aluminum pans closer to the run.

If you can help in any way, please contact us via email or text/voice calls.

Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration in helping us continue with this mission.

Wendy Bynum-Wade  
[wendybynumwade@gmail.com](mailto:wendybynumwade@gmail.com)  
845-629-4324

Arlete Shaeffer  
Arlete.Shaeffer@ Gmail.com  
203-545-5622

Co-coordinators  
Midnight Run @ First Presbyterian Church in Goshen

All volunteers must wear masks while we are at our designated spot in NYC.

Other needs for clothing are listed below.

**We need:**

We do not have any left of the following:

Hand sanitizer (pump bottles)

Washcloths

Hand wipes for help

Shaving cream (small size)

Sanitizer cleaning cloths

Tooth paste and tooth brushes

Combs

Feminine hygiene pads

Deodorant

2 rolls wide masking tape

4- 6 permanent markers

Women's small/medium panties

Women's socks

(There are plenty of men's socks- 2 boxes full, plenty of shampoo, lotion and soap)

Specific Fall/Winter clothing needed: Gently used and clean items:

Men's pants and jeans, jackets/coats, sweat shirts, sturdy shoes, boots, hats and gloves

Ladies: slacks, jeans, sweaters, jackets/ coats, sweat shirts, gloves, sturdy walking shoes/sneakers, functional boots, warm socks

Blankets, sleeping bags

**Please**

**NO** dresses, blouses, bathing attire, sandals, shorts, high heel shoes or boots

**NO** children or baby clothing

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## **Westminster College's Young Presbyterian Scholarship**

Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA is a Presbyterian affiliated school which has a tradition of offering an \$84,000 scholarship to a qualified student. The Young Adult Scholarship was established to provide an opportunity for outstanding Presbyterian students to attend one of the nation's best liberal arts colleges. This is a four-year scholarship (\$21,000 per year min.) and is for qualified high school seniors entering college in the Fall of 2022. For more information, contact the College Chaplain, the Rev. Jim Mohr at [mohrjr@westminster.edu](mailto:mohrjr@westminster.edu) (794-946-7116) or Kathryn Lombardo, Campus Ministry Fellow at [lombarkr@westminster.edu](mailto:lombarkr@westminster.edu) (724-946-7405). Information on the school itself can be found at [www.westminster.edu](http://www.westminster.edu)



## **PRAYER CORNER**

**The following members or friends are going through a time in which they have asked for prayer by the church. Please keep the following people in your prayers:**

Colin Alevras  
Janet Begnoche  
Scott Brinkley  
Jean and Bruce Crandall  
James, Max, and Liam Feragola  
Charles Fritz  
Kevin and Sara Hankins  
Regina Kenny  
Maria Kurt  
James Magee  
Dolores Mollicone  
Eileen Myslinski  
Dave and Wendy Paffenroth  
Carolyn Reynolds  
Matt Skyer  
Gary Smith  
Christopher Tucker  
Kenneth Van Etten  
Mitch Weintraub

Ron Alevras  
Ann (Strong) Blake  
Barbara Cody  
Dori Dodson  
Mary Lee Farris and her sister  
Carol Gabella's nephew, Frank  
Susan Johnson  
Mary Kopec's cousin, Cathy  
Patricia Lawlor  
Kelly Magee Thrush  
Richard Montalbano  
Amy (Thompson) Nguye  
Josephine Pecoraro  
Karen Saleski  
Mary Rita Schlagel  
Louise Spencer  
Lori Kilmer's mom, Learle VanEmburg  
Ashley Wade  
Jerry Westphal

Susan Ambrsino  
Richard Brahs  
Lynn Costa and Son  
Everyone serving in the Military  
Judy Fazio  
Barbara and George Hankins  
Rosemary Joy  
Jeff Kott and Natalia  
Maggie and Quinn  
Evelyn Mercado  
Kevin Murphy  
Owen  
Carlos and Miarose Reyes  
Tom Sawyer  
Eva Sickler  
Barbara Hankins' sister, Virginia Stubenrauch  
Sam Wallis  
Orra Wood

***(If you or someone you know would like to be on this list or if you would like to take a name off the list, please call the church office and the name(s) will be included/omitted next month.)***

## **PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2021**

Every year, the Presbytery of the Hudson River charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership is currently **270** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2021 is \$38.83**, which is a total of **\$10,484.10** to be taken from our operating budget. Please assist with this expense and write a check for your family assessment and either mail it to the church or place it in the Sunday offering plate. We ask that you pay this by February 1, 2021. Thanks for doing your share.



## Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



### **OCTOBER UPDATE**

**Peaceful, tranquil...our garden brings contentment in the fall.  
Count your many blessings as we continue to enjoy the gift of life.**

#### **Memorial Pavers**

To order a memorial paver to honor or remember your loved ones, please see Pat in the church office. The cost of each paver is only \$100. We will place an order when we have 10 requests (as of now we only have one order).

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#### **Only 3 Niches Remain Available for Purchase in the Memorial Columbarium**

Each niche allows for double or single interment with three purchase options:

**Payment in Full = \$2,800**

12-Month Payment Option = \$250 / month for 12 months (\$3,000)

18-Month Payment Option = \$180 / month for 18 months (\$3,240)

***We will need to consider constructing a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> columbarium wall soon.  
The estimated cost for these two new walls is \$40,000+.***

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#### **“Stewards of Our Garden”**

*Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards for keeping the garden neat!*

##### **The OCTOBER/early NOVEMBER Steward's Schedule:**

|                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill Eustance              | October 1 – October 15   |
| Barbara and George Hankins | October 16 – October 31  |
| Bill Eustance              | November 1 – November 15 |

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### **CALLING ANY & ALL VOLUNTEERS!**

***“Helping Hands” are always needed and certainly welcomed to help maintain the garden. Just reach out to Pat in the church office to sign-up and be added to our Stewards schedule.***

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Call the church office (845-294-7991) or Wayne George (914-213-4093)  
for any information you may need about The Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden.



## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

**Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we shall seek to use our gifts through worship, ministry, and mission, to gather the Church in from the world, to continue to nurture one another, to serve a world still broken, and to exemplify through common values and purposes Christian discipleship to the greater glory of God.**

### **BOARD OF ELDERS**

#### **Class of 2022**

**Linda Boardman  
Geri Corey  
William Eustance  
Deb Hourahan  
Brad McLeland  
Brian Meek  
Rob Person**

#### **Class of 2023**

**Nancy Buckley  
Jennifer Ellis  
BA Long  
Kevan Ottochian  
Sue Varden**

#### **Class of 2024**

**Marlene Gaynor  
Rick Heal  
Ken Phelan  
Bill Powers  
Mal Stewart  
Anne Wood**

**Clerk of Session: Sue Varden**

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

#### **Class of 2022**

**Liese Boese  
Margaret Dickover  
Jon Hourahan  
Jody Kopec  
Logan Quick  
Felicia Van Doran  
Mitch Weintraub**

#### **Class of 2023**

**Diana Bowe  
Jane Geyer  
Gina Gruber  
Carolyn Keller  
Mary Kopec  
Jonathan Laskoski  
Cheryl Zis**

#### **Class of 2024**

**Allison Csernai  
Brendan Donohue  
Pat Ellis  
Sheila Heal  
Bill Keller  
Barbara Schust  
George Schust**

**Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller**

### **STAFF**

**Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music  
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary  
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer  
William Kozireski, Church Sexton  
Mitch Weintraub, Church Sexton**

# THE KID'S PAGE

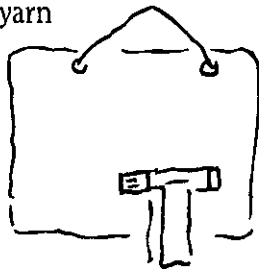
## MAKE A REMINDER BOARD

Sometimes we need something to help us remember things.

A Reminder Board can help.

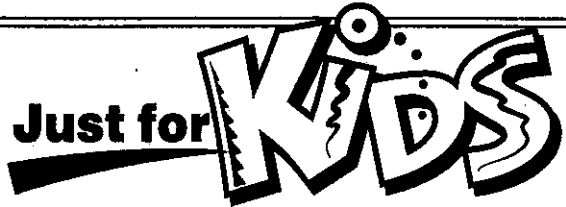
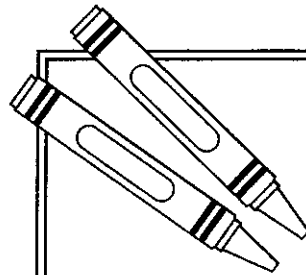
### You will need:

- ✎ a piece of cardboard (one side of a cereal box works well)
- ✎ white or colored contact paper
- ✎ a hole punch
- ✎ scissors
- ✎ clothes pin (the kind with a spring)
- ✎ glue
- ✎ wipe-off marker
- ✎ yarn



### How to make it:

1. Cut the contact paper a little larger than the cardboard.
2. Stick the contact paper to the cardboard, folding the edges over to the back.
3. Punch 2 holes at the top.
4. Tie yarn to the holes to make a hanger.
5. Glue the clothes pin to the front. When dry, it will hold the marker.
6. Write notes on your new reminder board!



## Rules to Live By

God wants us to live our lives in His way.  
In Exodus 20 you will find some special rules to live by.

Use the code to fill in the blanks and see the rules.

A = ♥ E = ∞ I = ☺ O = ☾ U = ☆ Y = ☼

sh ll h v n th r g ds b f r m  
sh ll n t m k f r rself n d l  
sh ll n t m s s th n m f th  
L rd r G d.  
R m mb r th S bb th d y b  
k p ng t h l  
H n r f th r nd r m th r  
sh ll n t m rd r  
sh ll n t c mm t d lt r  
sh ll n t st l  
sh ll n t g v f ls t st m n  
g nst r n ghb r  
sh ll n t c v t n th ng th t  
b l ngs t r n ghb r  
\*Th T n C mm ndm nts\*

1) You shall have no other gods before me. 2) You shall not make for yourself an idol. 3) You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. 4) Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 5) Honor your father and your mother. 6) You shall not murder. 7) You shall not commit adultery. 8) You shall not steal. 9) You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. 10) You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. 11) The Ten Commandments

| Sun                                                                                   | Mon                                                                             | Tue                                                  | Wed                        | Thu                                  | Fri                         | Sat                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 26<br>9:30am - Church<br>9:30am - Worship                                             | 27<br>12:30pm - NA @ FH                                                         | 28<br>9:30am - Food Pantry<br>10am - Bible Study @ P | 29                         | 30                                   | 1<br>4pm - Wedding          | 2<br>3pm - Wedding @ S                                       |
| 3<br>9:30am - Church<br>9:30am - Worship<br>10:30am - Deacon's<br>12pm - Kopec Family | 4<br>12:30pm - NA @ FH                                                          | 5<br>9:30am - Food Pantry                            | 6<br>4:30pm - Mission      | 7<br>7:30pm - Choir                  | 8<br>6pm - Friday Night     | 9<br>9:30am - Food Pantry                                    |
| 10<br>9:30am - Church<br>9:30am - Worship                                             | 11<br>Columbus Day<br>Indigenous Peoples'<br>Office Closed<br>12:30pm - NA @ FH | 12<br>9:30am - Food Pantry<br>6:30pm - Outreach      | 13<br>7:30pm - Finance     | 14<br>7:30pm - Choir                 | 15<br>8:30am - Painting     | 16                                                           |
| 17<br>Tower Tie Articles Due<br>9:30am - Church<br>9:30am - Worship                   | 18<br>8am - GAPNS Photos @<br>12:30pm - NA @ FH                                 | 19<br>8am - GAPNS Photos @<br>9:30am - Food Pantry   | 20                         | 21<br>7:30pm - Choir                 | 22<br>Prep for Midnight Run | 23<br>Breakfast Midnight<br>9am - GAPNS Boot<br>1pm - AFTSPA |
| 24<br>9:30am - Church<br>9:30am - Worship                                             | 25<br>12:30pm - NA @ FH                                                         | 26<br>9:30am - Food Pantry                           | 27<br>7pm - Session @ Zoom | 28<br>11am - GAPNS<br>7:30pm - Choir | 29<br>11am - GAPNS          | 30<br>9am - Food Pantry<br>1pm - Mike Coyne @ FH             |
| 31<br>Halloween<br>9:30am - Church<br>9:30am - Worship                                | 1<br>First Day of American<br>12:30pm - NA @ FH                                 | 2<br>Election Day<br>9:30am - Food Pantry            | 3<br>4:30pm - Mission      | 4<br>7:30pm - Choir                  | 5                           | 6                                                            |